

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 NATALIE F. SIMMONS and STEPHEN
11 H. SIMMONS, husband and wife;
12 KATHERINE A. ROHR-SMITH; and
13 ZALDY FERNANDEZ, individually and
14 on behalf of others similarly situated,

15 Plaintiffs,

16 v.
17 ASSET RECOVERY GROUP, INC.,
18 d/b/a ASSET RECOVERY GROUP OF
19 WASHINGTON, an Oregon corporation;
20 and ROBERT S. FRIEDMAN,

21 Defendants.

22 CASE NO. C16-0794-JCC

23 MINUTE ORDER

24 The following Minute Order is made by direction of the Court, the Honorable John C.
25 Coughenour, United States District Judge:

26 This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiffs' motion to consolidate this case with
27 *Linehan v. AllianceOne Receivables Management, Inc.*, C15-1012-JCC (Dkt. No. 22). This case
28 raises the same legal issue as in the consolidated *Linehan* cases. The underlying facts are also
29 similar: debt collectors filed suit in particular divisions pursuant to a general court order, even
30 though the debtors did not reside in those districts and the underlying contracts were not formed
31 there. Because of these common questions of law and fact, the Court finds that consolidation
32 would conserve resources, avoid inconsistent results, and otherwise serve the interests of justice.

1 Accordingly, the Court GRANTS the motion (Dkt. No. 22) and ORDERS that:

2 (1) All future filings shall bear the caption and case number of *Linehan v. AllianceOne*
3 *Receivables Management, Inc.*, C15-1012-JCC.

4 (2) This case is closed, and any case management deadlines set in this case are stricken.

5 (3) The pending motions to dismiss in this case (Dkt. Nos. 16 & 17) are transferred to
6 *Linehan v. AllianceOne Receivables Management, Inc.*, C15-1012-JCC.

7 The Court acknowledges Defendant Asset Recovery Group's argument that the
8 consolidated cases are further along than this proceeding. (See Dkt. No. 30 at 1-2.) Regarding the
9 pending motions to dismiss in this case, there are likewise pending motions in the consolidated
10 cases, and the Court anticipates a swift ruling on these motions to move this case along.

11 Regarding the case management schedule in the consolidated cases, Defendants Asset Recovery
12 and Robert Friedman may appeal to the Court for relief from any deadline that is truly unfair or
13 unmanageable.

14 The Clerk is DIRECTED to post this order in both C16-0794-JCC and in C15-1012-JCC.

15 DATED this 23rd day of August 2016.

16 William M. McCool
17 Clerk of Court

18 s/Paula McNabb
19 Deputy Clerk